

## THE DEMOCRAT

Monday Feb 8

Hon. DANIEL JOHNSON President of the Senate and Hon. Charles Faulkner emphatically deny that they have entered into any combination to defeat the election of a United States Senator by the Legislature.

As the Legislature has engaged in the profitable business of casting complimentary votes on the Senatorial question, we desire to notify our delegate that at least 800 of those that voted for him at the late election, will expect a complimentary vote, and in order that he may get through with that little job by the end of the session he must vote early, quick and often.

PRESIDENT GRANT is preparing his military machinery to secure him the third term. Under a pretense of war with Spain he wants the army and navy put on a war footing. His experience in Louisiana seems to convince him that he must have more heavy ordnance to subjugate New York, Baltimore and other cities that dare to question his right to rule with the tyranny of a military despot. Give him what he asks for now and he will have enough to manage the polls to his satisfaction. The ballot boxes of New York city can readily be thrown into confusion by military interference, and a few heavy guns in the harbor could finish the matter.

## The Senatorial Lock-Out.

Up to this writing no election of Senator has been made, and from the balloting we have received from day to day, it looks as if no choice would be made soon.

The Democratic members have the power of making an election, and the responsibility for their failure to do so, as well as for the time they are expending in this contest, falls upon them and their party. They will once cease their complimentary voting and unite upon some good man.

The Register closes a well written article upon this subject with the following advice:

It is surely time that the friends of the principal candidates unite in adopting a rule dropping, on each successive ballot, the lowest candidate, until a nomination is made. It is strange if there be not forty-five reasonable men in both branches of Legislature; forty-five men who are each willing to yield something to the general good; who do not place their own petty likes and dislikes above the welfare of the public; who are willing to subordinate something of their personal feelings to the will of the majority; who, in short, are true men, true representatives and true Democrats.

This legislature is said to be composed largely of men of ability. It is hoped that their ability is not of the sort that tears down and destroys; of that impracticable kind that bring chaos and destruction.

## Proceedings of the Legislature.

The following bills of local importance have been offered since our last issue:

On motion of Mr. Squires,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation inquire into the expediency of appropriating the sum of five hundred dollars for the purpose of building a bridge over Knob's Creek, on the Gauley Bridge Turnpike road, in the county of Braxton.

On motion of Mr. Chidester,

*Resolved*, That the Auditor be requested to furnish to this House, if within his power to do so, the number of insane people now confined in the jails of this State, and the cost per capita per week, of so keeping them in jail.

On motion of the same,

*Resolved*, That the Committee on the Judiciary be requested to report a bill defining especially the powers of county courts over turnpike roads, formerly owned by the State, that have been transferred to the counties through which said roads pass.

Mr. Chidester offered the following House Joint Resolution No. 14, concerning the debt of Virginia:

WIRGINIA, Since the report of the commissioners appointed by Governor Jacob in 1871, no action has been taken by the legislature of this State, in relation to the public debt of Virginia, and no definite understanding has been arrived at concerning the proposition of said debt which is properly chargeable to West Virginia; and

The report made by the said commissioners should at least meet with courteous consideration, and its subject-matter be fully discussed by the representatives of the people; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Governor be requested to present to each House of the Legislature 250 copies of the report of said commissioners, with such other suggestions on the subject as he may deem pertinent. Which resolution was adopted.

Mr. Chidester presented the petition of Abram C. Hale, of Lewis county, asking for the payment of a certain claim due him from the State of West Virginia, and such other relief as the Legislature may deem proper, which was referred to the Committee on Claims and Grievances.

## A Musty Precedent.

In great parliamentary crises, as every one knows, the first done is to look up "precedent." Our crisis is not in any sense parliamentary, or, in our form of speech, Congressional; and if we were not trained in much respect for the authority of what has been done before. Still, precedents have a certain sort of interest, and it is in the Maryland case of 1860, recently disinterred, that they have a little *ad hominem* flavor, they do command attention. A forgotten precedent, which in some of its features is on all fours with what has been attempted in Louisiana, has occurred

to us: It was the day of wise, old fashioned statesmanship, when the great powers of the Federal government, the exceptional power to interfere with the States, were held with strict reserves. This is only in incidents and details. The results were entirely divergent. It is the case of what is known in Pennsylvania as the "Buckshot war" and may be simply stated. Joseph Ritner, abolitionist and anti-Negro, was a minority, or, rather, plurality Governor when elected, and, as his term of service drew near the close, in 1858, he became, if possible, more so. We don't insult his memory by comparing him with Kellogg; but his administration was not so moral, chaste, and he and his advisers had reason to dread, as Kellogg has, the advent of a new Governor and an honest Legislature.

The election of that year showed that both were at hand. Then it was that Thaddeus Stevens and his confederates in Harrisburg and Philadelphia determined and proclaimed their resolve "to treat the election as if it had not occurred," and, by false return, to secure a majority in the Legislature, so as to secure impunity for the misdeeds of the past. They had a plausible "returning board," just as Kellogg does, and excluded previous just as Kellogg does, and excluded previous just as Kellogg does, and it gave false certificates. Armed with these stimulated members in both houses, they arrayed a brave, rough string in these days, revolved, and honestly elected members holding bows and arrows, went to Harrisburg, backed by a mob, by not at all disposed to be trifled with. Both parties, rather turbulent, claimed the Legislature, and two rival assemblies in the same building were organized. There was confusion and riot and threats of violence all around. Roguery, however, is very apt to show the white feather (here, too, there is a Kellogg parallelism) and at a moment when possibly a little boldness might have won, the Speaker of the Senate, the Secretary of the Commonwealth and Mr. Thaddeus Stevens jumped out of a back window and fled the wrath to come.

Then it was that Governor Ritner, not a wicked but a weak man, wholly in the power of the unscrupulous men around him, called on the President of the United States ("Mr. Van Duzer") for military aid to suppress "domestic violence." He indicated the mode. There was a squad of cavalry at Carlisle barracks, less than twenty miles off. The President did not even answer the letter, but referred it to the Secretary of War, who did, very promptly and emphatically. He parsimoniously refused to interpose, reading his refusal on the ground that the Democrats will have but little trouble to secure enough from the Northern and Western States to give them the desired majority. It is an ugly fact in the administration party and they can't exactly see how they can dodge it. If the Democracy holds its own it has not much to fear from its corrupt and fast waning adversary, who though it marries all the office holders at present and makes a good show is like a white sepulchre and must fall. The Republican press are almost unanimous in saying that if their party hope for a continuance in power, it must throw overboard every Johnson. Even this won't do; the ship itself is rotten and leaking, and it must be run aground and laid aside. No repairing that can be done between now and 1876 can render the old bulk sea-worthy. Victory does not always go hand in hand with advantage, and often the victors find themselves worse off than before by the demoralization and lack of discipline. We trust no Democrat will on account of the late victories be content. We, as a party, are only on the threshold of victory, and to daily and dawdle away the opportunity now presented will render our position worse than before. The discipline of the party must be insisted upon. No compromises with enemies, nor temporizing must be indulged. If the party is true to its traditions, to its principles and preserves its onward march, it will, as surely as the sun rises, control the affairs of this country after 1876.

The Truth at Last.

A more crushing answer to the misrepresentations and partisanship of the President's message could not be made than that furnished in the report of the committee which was sent to New Orleans, and composed of a majority of his own political friends. It is timely, clear, moderate, and conclusive, and contains, so far as practicable, a condensed statement of facts and results derived from the testimony.

Mr. Foote and Mr. Phelps are both Republicans of high character and ability, distinguished for their independence, fairness, and integrity. Mr. Potter is a Democrat of the very best reputation, who has never allowed considerations of party to swerve him from the right course, and who is universally respected as a man and as a legislator. This committee went on their mission without prejudice or partiality, to find out the exact truth and to report what they found to the House. They confined the investigation to the last election, to the action of the Returning Board, to the condition of the State, and to the events which happened in their presence in the Legislature. They accepted no hospitality, and devoted themselves exclusively to the important duty which they were charged. They declare unanimously that "the action of the Returning Board on the whole, was arbitrary, unjust, and, in our opinion, illegal, and that this arbitrary, unjust, and illegal action alone prevented the return by the board of a majority of Conservative members to the lower house."

That is the whole case summed up in a few words, though the committee go into details citing the different parties to establish the justice of their conclusion, and to show how flagrant were the frauds perpetrated by Kellogg's tools in fabricating a Legislature to order. They demonstrate that the members who were ejected by the Federal troops were fairly and legally ejected, and that the persons returned in their places had no shadow of a claim to seats in the Legislature. So that this military intervention is made doubly criminal by the fact that the troops were used to uphold what everybody knew to be a monstrous fraud.

It is made plain by this report that if there was any intimidation at all, it came from the Kellogg side, who, under the orders of Packard, used troops in the rural districts to alarm the whites, made arbitrary arrests, and instigated violence against all the colored people who were inclined to vote the Conservative ticket. On this point the language of the committee is explicit, and leaves from the slightest apprehension. They reiterate the conviction already cited, and emphasize it in these ringing words:

"The result was that in November 1874, the people of our State of Louisiana, has occurred

ana did fairly have a free, peaceable, and full registration and election, in which a clear Conservative majority was elected to the lower House of the Legislature, of which majority the Conservatives were deprived by the unjust, illegal, and arbitrary action of the Returning Board."

There is no doubt but the testimony warranted much stronger expressions than the committee employed, but the judicial calmness which pervades the report, and the absence of all bias or feeling, entitle it to that reason if no other to the fullest confidence of the returning Board."

Contrasted with the partisan tone of the message which Landauert Williams wrote, with its notoriously false statements, evasions, and exaggerations, this report cannot fail to produce an impression on the public mind, and satisfy every candid man that the outrage in Louisiana is far worse than represented, and that the President deserves impeachment for a wilful abuse of his trust.

The whole scheme which culminated on the 4th of January was concocted at Washington, and the President detailed Gen. Sherman secretly for his infamous service, with a full knowledge of the violent part he was to play. Gen. Kellogg declared he was to "obeying orders" when at the head of armed soldiers he forced out five members of the Legislature. Those "orders" have been suppressed, together with all the military proceedings of that day, except the passionate statements of Sherman derived from Kellogg and Packard, and proved by the report of the Congressional committee to be destitute of any truth whatever.

The issue is now joined. An impartial committee have cleared away the obscurity with which the President and his followers have sought to invest the naked truth. Their report deals with the vital question, and does not attempt to dodge it by unworthy devices to stigmatize, pettling quibbles or state tricks. The position of the Republicans who surrendered to the President and renounced their manhood was bad enough, even on the face pretenses of the message. Now it is deplorable and desperate beyond any former experience.

## The Presidency of 1876.

The fact that the Southern States have one hundred and thirty-eight electoral votes, and that they will all be cast for the Democratic nominee for the Presidency in 1876, has proved a deep thorn in the side of the Republicans. Only 184 votes are required to elect in the electoral college, and the late elections indicate that the Democrats will have but little trouble to secure enough from the Northern and Western States to give them the desired majority. It is an ugly fact in the administration party and they can't exactly see how they can dodge it. If the Democracy holds its own it has not much to fear from its corrupt and fast waning adversary, who though it marries all the office holders at present and makes a good show is like a white sepulchre and must fall.

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The Narrow Gauge Rail Road.

Below we print another letter from Louisville, Kentucky, in relation to the Narrow Gauge Rail Roads:

Louisville, Ky., Jan. 27, 1875.  
Editor's Democrat.

I am really glad to see that your people are beginning to be stirred up on the subject of Rail Roads, and that they are in favor of the Narrow Gauge plan. I hope you will keep it before the "people," build the road from Clarksville to Weston for a trial, it costs but little more than our old fashioned turnpikes, your people can get into the cars and go to Clarksville in an hour; they can bring your freight out as cheap and I must say \$2 per cent cheaper than can be brought by a Broad Gauge; many will say why is this, well if a road can be built at \$3 or \$4 per cent less they certainly can haul freight and passengers \$3 to \$5 per cent cheaper.

Now below I give you prices of cars Broad and Narrow Gauge. First class passenger coach broad gauge \$8,000 to \$9,000—seats of narrow gauge \$8,300 to \$8,600. Broad gauge carry only six passengers more than the narrow gauge. Broad gauge box car \$700 to \$1,000 narrow gauge \$600 to \$900, broad gauge carry one to two tons more than the narrow gauge. Broad gauge Gondola (coal car) \$700 to \$900 Narrow Gauge \$750 to \$850 Iron rails per mile for Broad Gauge will require about 185,000 pounds, reckoning 50 pounds to a yard of iron, while that of the Narrow Gauge will require about 105,000 pounds, counting 30 pounds of iron to the yard, this class of iron can be bought at our mills now at \$50 per ton with fish bar fastening all complete. Crosses for Broad Gauge will cost 40 cents average, while they will only cost 25 cents for Narrow Gauge. Grading, bridge-work and masonry, will cost 38 per cent less. Now, as I said in my last letter will not old Harrison and Lewis

agree to be taxed to the amount of two hundred or two hundred and fifty thousand dollars each to build this road, and your citizens (my old friends) take the balance of the stock which I know you would have ready sale for such bonds in New York. At thirty years seven per cent bonds of Harrison and Lewis counties, when you have the road in good running order, and Upshur and Randolph counties see that it is a fine paying institution, that your lands are being enhanced by its value, that Weston is being made a great city and the Capitol of the State, they join in and subscribe their quota to carry the road on to Beverly, they will find a market for lumber and timber of all kinds in the East and a much cheaper and better way of getting out with all the products of the country.

Repair all kinds neatly, cleanly done.

E. S. Bland Andrew Edmiston

LAND & EDMISTON,

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW,

AND

PRACTICAL SURVEYORS,

Weston, W. Va.

Will promptly attend to collections, or

other business in the Circuit or County Courts of Lewis and adjoining counties, and the State and United States Courts.

Engineering and Surveying, together

with plats of land, &c., will receive prompt attention. Maps of Dist. Town and Counties prepared.

Apptd. 1875.

Very Respectfully,

V.

The largest and best arranged House

in the City. Everything strictly

First-Class. Good Sample

Rooms for Commercial Men.

Close to Steamboat

Landing and Business

Untires.

COME AND SEE US.

Buss to and from all Trains

TERMS \$2 PER DAY.

W. P. HOLTON, Clerk.

The largest and best arranged House

in the City. Everything strictly

First-Class. Good Sample

Rooms for Commercial Men.

Close to Steamboat

Landing and Business

Untires.

COME AND SEE US.

SENT FREE ONE MONTH ON

TRIAL.

Subscribe for your County

Paper, and then for the Standard.

W. G. BENNETT, Commissioner.

LAND SALE.

Caroline W. Quarrier, executrix, &c.

vs.

Peregrine Hays, et al.

IN CHANCERY.

In pursuance of a decree of the Circuit Court of Gilmer county, rendered at the October term thereof, 1873, the undersigned Commissioner, will proceed to sell on the first door of the court house of said county, on the first day of March next, 1875, of the Circuit Court of said county, to sell at public auction, a valuable tract of land, lying on the West Fork of the Little Kanawha River, in Gilmer county, containing

730 ACRES,

being the same tract of land conveyed by Alexander W. Quarrier and wife to Peregrine Hays by deed dated 12th of July, 1852. Said land will be sold for Cash.

W. G. BENNETT, Commissioner.

LAND SALE.

Exchange Bank of Virginia

vs.

Robert Gibson, et al.

IN CHANCERY.

In pursuance of a decree of the Circuit Court of Braxton county, rendered at the